



Cancer in Washington

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FACT SHEET

The burden of cancer in Washington is heavy...

- Cancer is the second leading cause of death overall.¹
- Cancer causes about 1 in 4 deaths.¹
- 30,195 new cases of cancer were diagnosed in 2000.²
- 10,780 residents died of cancer in 2001.¹

AND the burden of cancer is unequal...

- **Race/ethnicity** – African-Americans have the highest overall rates of new cancer and deaths from cancer.²
- **Age** – Cancer mortality increases sharply with age. Cancer is the leading cause of death among adults 45-74 years of age in Washington.¹
- **Sex** – Men have higher overall rates of new cancer and cancer death than women.²

AND the burden of cancer is likely to increase...

- Washington's population is aging.³ With an aging population, the burden of cancer is likely to grow.

BUT, we can meet the challenge through...

Comprehensive Cancer Control – A coordinated and integrated approach to reducing cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality through prevention, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliation.

- **Effective prevention** – Scientists estimate that over half of cancer deaths are due to lifestyle choices.⁴
- **Early detection** – People are still dying from cancers we can detect early when the cancer is more curable.
- **Quality cancer care** – About 495,000 (8.4%) Washington residents were uninsured in 2000. Language, culture, low education level, lack of insurance, and lack of transportation are some of the barriers that prevent many from receiving prevention, screening, therapeutic, and palliative services.³
- **Research** – Scientific research is the engine that drives methods of cancer prevention, improved early detection and successful treatment methods.

Sources

¹ Washington State Vital Statistics, 2001

² Washington State Cancer Registry, 1996-1998, 2000

³ The Health of Washington State, 2002

⁴ Harvard Report on Cancer Prevention, Volume I: Human Causes of Cancer, 1996